

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method of establishing a secure communication path  
2 between a computer system and a remote computer system  
3 comprising:  
4 exchanging identification data with the remote  
5 computer system using a communication path;  
6 determining, based on the identification data, whether  
7 a predefined security policy exists corresponding  
8 to the remote computer system; and  
9 establishing a secure communication path using a  
10 default security policy in response to  
11 determining that the predefined security policy  
12 does not exist.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the  
2 identification data is selected from the group  
3 consisting of a gateway address, a host name, a user  
4 identifier, an IP address, and a distinguished name.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 1 wherein  
2 establishing the secure communication path further  
3 includes:  
4 determining whether a digital certificate or a pre-  
5 shared key is used for encrypting data.
- 6 4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
7 searching a group table for a group identifier  
8 corresponding to the remote computer system;  
9 wherein the predefined security policy corresponds to  
10 the group identifier in response to a successful  
11 group identifier search.

1 5. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 selecting a proposal and transforms corresponding to  
3 the default security policy;  
4 creating a security association payload using the  
5 selected proposal and transforms; and  
6 sending the security association from one computer  
7 system to the remote computer system.

1 6. The method as described in claim 5 further comprising:  
2 receiving a response from the remote computer system;  
3 determining whether the proposal was accepted by the  
4 other computer system; and  
5 verifying identification information in response to  
6 the proposal being accepted.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:  
2 verifying a remote identifier and a digital signature  
3 corresponding to the remote computer system; and  
4 creating the secure communication path to the remote  
5 computer system in response to the verification.

1 8. An information handling system comprising:  
2 one or more processors;  
3 a memory accessible by the processors;  
4 a nonvolatile storage accessible by the processors;  
5 a network interface connecting the information  
6 handling system to a computer network; and  
7 a network tool for creating a secure communication  
8 path to a remote computer system, the network  
9 tool including:

10 means for exchanging identification data with the  
11 remote computer system using a communication  
12 path;  
13 means for determining, based on the  
14 identification data, whether a predefined  
15 security policy exists corresponding to the  
16 remote computer system; and  
17 means for establishing a secure communication  
18 path using a default security policy in  
19 response to determining that the predefined  
20 security policy does not exist.

1 9. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 8 wherein the identification data is selected from the  
3 group consisting of a gateway address, a host name, a  
4 user identifier, an IP address, and a distinguished  
5 name.

1 10. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 8 wherein the means for establishing the secure  
3 communication path further includes:  
4 means for determining whether a digital certificate or  
5 a pre-shared key is used for encrypting data.

6 11. The information handling system as described in claim  
7 8 further comprising:  
8 means for searching a group table for a group  
9 identifier corresponding to the remote computer  
10 system;  
11 wherein the predefined security policy corresponds to  
12 the group identifier in response to a successful  
13 group identifier search.

1 12. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 8 further comprising:

3 means for selecting a proposal and transforms

4 corresponding to the default security policy;

5 means for creating a security association payload

6 using the selected proposal and transforms; and

7 means for sending the security association from one

8 computer system to the remote computer system.

1 13. The information handling system as described in claim  
2 12 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a response from the remote

4 computer system;

5 means for determining whether the proposal was

6 accepted by the other computer system; and

7 means for verifying identification information in

8 response to the proposal being accepted.

1 14. A computer program product stored on a computer  
2 operable medium for establishing a secure  
3 communication path between a computer system and a  
4 remote computer system comprising:

5 means for exchanging identification data with the

6 remote computer system using a communication

7 path;

8 means for determining, based on the identification

9 data, whether a predefined security policy exists

10 corresponding to the remote computer system; and

11 means for establishing a secure communication path

12 using a default security policy in response to

13 determining that the predefined security policy

14 does not exist.

1 15. The computer program product as described in claim 14  
2 wherein the identification data is selected from the  
3 group consisting of a gateway address, a host name, a  
4 user identifier, an IP address, and a distinguished  
5 name.

1 16. The computer program product as described in claim 14  
2 wherein the means for establishing the secure  
3 communication path further includes:  
4 means for determining whether a digital certificate or  
5 a pre-shared key is used for encrypting data.

6 17. The computer program product as described in claim 14  
7 further comprising:  
8 means for searching a group table for a group  
9 identifier corresponding to the remote computer  
10 system;  
11 wherein the predefined security policy corresponds to  
12 the group identifier in response to a successful  
13 group identifier search.

1 18. The computer program product as described in claim 14  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for selecting a proposal and transforms  
4 corresponding to the default security policy;  
5 means for creating a security association payload  
6 using the selected proposal and transforms; and  
7 means for sending the security association from one  
8 computer system to the remote computer system.

1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 5  
2 further comprising:

3 means for receiving a response from the remote  
4 computer system;  
5 means for determining whether the proposal was  
6 accepted by the other computer system; and  
7 means for verifying identification information in  
8 response to the proposal being accepted.

1 20. The computer program product as described in claim 14  
2 further comprising:  
3 means for verifying a remote identifier and a digital  
4 signature corresponding to the remote computer  
5 system; and  
6 means for creating the secure communication path to  
7 the remote computer system in response to the  
8 verification.

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